

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re the Application of:
POWELL

Serial No.: 10/050,725

Filed: January 15, 2002

Atty. File No.: 7090-1-CIP

For: "METHOD FOR
ELECTROCOAGULATION OF LIQUIDS"

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

) Group Art Unit: 1742

)
) Examiner: Zheng, L.

)
) Confirmation No.: 8845

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I, Mr. Robert L. Hamilton, hereby declares as follows:

1. I am an engineer in the United States and have worked in the field of water purification/electrocoagulation for approximately 30 years.
2. I believe I have an excellent working knowledge of electro-coagulation technology, and I am aware of many different types of electrocoagulation unit designs.
3. I am currently president of my own consulting company and am not employed by the applicant.
4. I have read the U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/050,725 entitled "METHOD FOR ELECTROCOAGULATION OF LIQUIDS".
5. I have also reviewed the prior art patents relied upon by the Examiner in the Examination of Mr. Powell's application. Specifically, I have reviewed the U.S. Pat. No. 4,329,211 (Plantes), the Vortex™ Water Systems Operating Instruction Manual (the Vortex™ Operating Manual), and the U.S. Pat. No. 5,571,399 (Allen).

6. It is my understanding that in accordance with what is illustrated in the present patent application at Figs. 13 and 17, the tabs of the reaction plates extend through the bottom of the housing. One advantage of placing the plate tabs in this position is to better isolate the electrical connections for the tabs so that an operator is less prone to come in contact with the tabs when a source of power is applied to the electrocoagulation chamber.

7. However, isolation of the electrically connected tabs can be achieved in a number of ways. Typically, the plate tabs extend through the upper portion of the housing, and then some type of cover or other shield is placed over the tabs to help prevent inadvertent touching of the tabs.

8. Additionally, having the plate tabs extend through the bottom of the housing requires that the access openings where the tabs protrude be sealed so that liquid does not escape from the chamber. This sealing therefore adds some complexity to the electrocoagulation chamber which can be avoided if the plate tabs simply extend through the upper portion of the housing.

9. With respect to the Allen reference, it is my interpretation of this patent that it does not discuss electrocoagulation; rather, this patent relates to electrofiltering. In this patent, the plates or electrodes that are used are not replaced over time since the electrodes are not consumed by the electrofiltering process. Rather, a filter cartridge is replaced in the electrofiltering unit. Therefore, with respect to the specific positioning of the contacts 16 and 17, as well as the charge plate 19, terminal strip 23 and terminal strip 24, it would not matter in this type of invention where the electrical connections are located since they never have to be replaced. At least with respect to the field of electrocoagulation, in my opinion, this Allen patent provides no motivation or knowledge for placing electrical connections at any location. Although electrostatic and electrocoagulation devices may look similar, they have very different design requirements, and the methods in which they function are very different.

The undersigned being warned that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001, and that such willful false statements and the like may jeopardize the validity of the application or document or any registration resulting therefrom, declares that all statements made of his own knowledge are true; and all statements made on the information and belief are believed to be true.

8/4/2006
Date

Robert L. Hamilton
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